

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

Clerks' Officers and Trust Funds.
To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
The average citizen is a matter of no little surprise that Marion county is not liable for the misappropriation of trust funds by John E. Sullivan, the late county clerk. A receiver or administrator who is elected by the court to pay the county clerk's money which he holds is released from all liability when he makes such payments and receives the clerk's receipt therefor, but his wards are the losers if the clerk is a defaulter, unless such default is covered by the clerk's bond. A suit may be instituted by parties for the possession of certain funds arising out of the settlement of a loss under a fire insurance or a life insurance policy. It has been usual to have the money in dispute paid into the county clerk's office, there to be held until the suit was finally determined. Not infrequently this is the case because the parties have been unwilling to trust the companies to hold the money, and preferred having a settlement before instituting suit. A suit of this sort occurred a short time since over the possession of \$8,000, paid by certain fire insurance companies to a party instituting the suit. It was one of our largest manufacturing companies, the defendants being the owner of a large building which had been burned. It was agreed that the money should be paid by the companies to the clerk of the court, there to remain until the suit was determined. Fortunately, the money was paid to the clerk of Tippecanoe county, and not to John E. Sullivan; otherwise the one gaining the suit would have been the loser, and the entire amount, as Marion county could not have been in any sense liable. So far as I know, the general impression has been that the county clerk's office was a better place of security than our banks, it being generally believed that the county was security for the payment of the money paid into this office. Suppose John E. Sullivan had opened a bank in this city with a subscribed capital stock of \$25,000, and with three stockholders and William Wallace, receiver of the trust of Fletcher & Schaefer, the postmaster, and bank large sums of money, which would have been thought of Mr. Wallace's action? Would he not have been greatly censured for doing so? That court would have ordered trust funds paid into such a bank. Yet, under Mr. Sullivan, what else has the county clerk's office been? The only security and capital of this office has been Mr. Sullivan's bond of \$25,000, and the amounts have directed Mr. Wallace and Mr. Milligan (not to mention numerous administrators) to pay into this office very large sums of money. Mr. Wallace, Mr. Milligan and these administrators are required to give very large bonds, the actual value of these bonds being carefully inquired into, and the money is paid into the office to protect any misappropriation or loss of these funds. Now we are met with the astonishing fact that one man is elected as the custodian of not only the money, but of all of them, as the court shall direct, who is required practically to give no bond or security. Certainly this is a very unusual way of managing such trust funds, and it is plain that there is something radically wrong in this way of doing business. This state of affairs is most astonishing and calls for immediate reform. It is stated that the bond of the present clerk, John R. Wilson, is for \$100,000. While I do not doubt that Mr. Wilson's integrity and uprightness is to be desired, this is as it should be. The question naturally arises, why did not the commissioners require the like amount from John E. Sullivan?

The county auditor is required to give bond for \$20,000. All warrants on the treasury are drawn by the county auditor. As a general rule, the warrants are drawn by the first he authorized by the County Commissioners before they can be legally drawn, and there are some that may be legally drawn without the action of the commissioners. The county treasurer is required by law to pay any warrant which the auditor draws, and the auditor can draw a warrant for all the school fund, or other funds, and if the treasurer has the money he must pay it. The warrant being illegal or unauthorized does not justify the treasurer in refusing to pay it. The county auditor, therefore, can draw all these funds, secure his bondsman and appropriate the rest. Of course, he would be subject to indictment and prosecution; but I say he has it in his power to do this.

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INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 4. W. H. H.

German in the Public Schools.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
I am glad to see that we have our Legislature at least one man who is so far from being a time-serving politician as to stand up for simple justice by introducing a bill into the House to put a stop to the great injustice of taxing everybody to pay the expense of teaching a foreign language in our free schools, a thing for which nine-tenths of our children have no more use than they have for three legs. Some have made the plea for teaching German in the schools that it should be taught as an accomplishment, if for nothing else. This plea may be answered by saying that the people are not paying taxes to get accomplishments, and if they were, why not teach dancing as an accomplishment? It is equally an accomplishment, and much more practical for the people than speaking German, would cost less and be of just as much use to the majority of children when they grow up and engage in the great battle of life. If the State or city treasury is so overburdened with cash that the Sullivan and Moore can get away with all of it, so that we must needs throw it away on teaching a foreign language at the expense of the tax-payers, why not, in justice to others, teach it in a school for German, French, Italian, and especially Spanish, the language of nations with which we have much more important commercial relations than we have with Germany? Can any one, or rather, can't every one see why German is singled out to the exclusion of all other languages to be made the pet of all political parties? Votes are being made on these votes are the motor that moves this whole machinery. I would not fear to risk all I am worth that if one thousand more French voters than German voters in this city today these very astute politicians would see at once that French and not German was the language of accomplishments par excellence, and therefore must be taught in the free schools to the exclusion of German.

It is a self-evident fact that every dollar that is spent in our free schools for anything outside of the useful branches of science is spent contrary to the intention of those who originated the school system, and consequently should be stopped at once and forever. How do you suppose our French citizens relish the idea of paying taxes for teaching the language of a people whom they hate worse than the devil hates holy water? As to the fact, patent every thinking man, that a babel of languages weakens the ties of fraternity that should bind the bonds indissoluble all the people of a nation. I need say nothing. Lay aside all other reasons, numerous and unanswerable as they are, and the insistence of the thing is enough in itself to condemn the practice in the minds of all honest men and demand its stoppage at once.

TAX-PAYER.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 6.

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To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
Four years ago the Democrats were loud in denouncing the "civil-service law," as they designated it. They not only held the law in contempt, but have openly and willfully violated its provisions every day since the beginning of the great "reform" administration of Mr. Cleveland. Now, after having removed all the Republicans from the service and supplied their places with Democratic workers and their friends,

they suddenly realize that the law is just, in fact, a most righteous law, and that it will now profit through the long violation of the law by demanding its strict observance. Mr. Cleveland, after waiting for a year in order that the Republicans might be thoroughly weeded out of the railway mail service, issues a proclamation extending the operation of the law so as to embrace this branch of the service, hoping thereby to continue in office the hundreds of "hungry heifers" who have been obstructing the mails and demoralizing the whole postal system, since the inauguration of his reform administration. Democratic plans and schemes do not always "run out" just as expected; sometimes they are nipped in the bud. They work better in the South, because it is dangerous for a Republican to remonstrate; he might receive a load of buck-shot for claiming any right to any office. Mr. Cleveland's policy will most likely fail, as the service can never become efficient until it is supplied with competent men. Hungry heifers, sold and faithful, honest clerks were removed without any cause whatever; men who from long experience and faithful study had become masters of the service, and these men were removed and their places given to Democrats, regardless of the fact that the service must suffer in consequence, but the efficiency of the service had to be rewarded at whatever cost.

The injustice done to these faithful men should be repaired by their prompt reinstatement, and the Pacific Coast time service will be improved in proportion to the number of old men reinstated. After violating the law for four years, the Democrats hope to profit by its enforcement. The law will be observed, but the service will not remain composed wholly of Democrats, however much Mr. Cleveland may desire it. Business is business, and the incoming administration will conduct affairs in a thorough business manner, and the number of men in any act of infidelity will be few, if any, acts of infidelity committed.

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No Destination in Kansas.
To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
I notice in your issue of Jan. 30, 1893, a statement that information was last week received at Kansas City to the effect that many of the people of this (Seward) county are on the verge of starvation. There is no truth in the statement. While it is true that we had a partial failure of crops, it is not true that we had a total failure, and while it is true we have some four or five families in this county that are poor, it is also true that our County Commissioners are taking the most active measures to relieve the needy. The Seward county is abundantly able to do so. The statements made by Mrs. James H. Richards (who lives six miles east of this place) are entirely untrue. Mr. Wallace, Mr. Milligan and these administrators are required to give very large bonds, the actual value of these bonds being carefully inquired into, and the money is paid into the office to protect any misappropriation or loss of these funds. Now we are met with the astonishing fact that one man is elected as the custodian of not only the money, but of all of them, as the court shall direct, who is required practically to give no bond or security. Certainly this is a very unusual way of managing such trust funds, and it is plain that there is something radically wrong in this way of doing business. This state of affairs is most astonishing and calls for immediate reform. It is stated that the bond of the present clerk, John R. Wilson, is for \$100,000. While I do not doubt that Mr. Wilson's integrity and uprightness is to be desired, this is as it should be. The question naturally arises, why did not the commissioners require the like amount from John E. Sullivan?

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NEWS IN SUNDAY'S JOURNAL.

Resume of the Principal Home and Foreign Events Recorded in the Issue of Feb. 10.

Another attack on Snakim is projected by the rebels.

An old man named Michael Florey was killed near Columbus, O.

White cattle, recently received by the White Plains in Norfolk, Conn.

An old bachelor named Harvmeier died of starvation near New Bremen, O.

General Harrison will not be able to visit Cincinnati on route to his inauguration.

Civil-service Commissioner Edgerton was summarily dismissed by President Cleveland.

The remains of a murdered man, partly eaten by hogs, were found in the woods near Acworth, Ga.

The French Chamber will consider the scrutiny of arrondissement to-day, and revision a week after.

Thirteen counterfeiters have been captured near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, within the past ten days.

Miss Esther Abrams has sued Lester Straus, of Cleveland, for breach of promise. She wants \$5,000 damages.

Ernest B. Tingle was sentenced at Lexington, Ky., to re-imprisonment in the penitentiary for murder.

Chauncey M. Depew says that, so far as he knows, the Big Four road has not been absorbed by the Vanderbilts.

Richard W. Bunko, bunco man, has been sentenced to two years in the Michigan penitentiary for a bunco game at Detroit.

It is stated that Gladstone will not go to Rome, as the Italian government opposes it, fearful of the result of an interview between him and the Pope.

The Democratic county convention of Butler county, Ohio, held at Hamilton on the 10th inst., elected Hon. James E. Campbell as a candidate for Governor.

The Governor of Missouri has granted a respite of sixty days to William Walker and John Matthews, the Bald Knobbers, under sentence to hang on the 15th inst.

A girl giving her name as Cora Wilson, and claiming to be the daughter of a Presbyterian minister in Ohio, was arrested at Hutchinson, Kan., for passing counterfeit money.

Smith, government leader in the Commons, has issued a circular calling upon Conservatives to be present at the opening of Parliament, on the 21st, as business of some importance will come up.

Edward C. Beck, who, in the past five years, assisted cashier of the Commercial Bank at St. Louis, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a 28-caliber pistol. He was assigned for the act.

In the trial of Pat Malloy, for perjury before the Senate committee, convict Dolan testified that several noted Irish leaders were members of the Invisibles, and that they were in the city of New York.

When Richard H. Gurnea, Democratic treasurer of Daviess county, Indiana, turned the public funds over to his successor he was found to be short \$10,000. He was arrested to be examined the books at a cost of \$3,000.

Now the Democratic Commissioners have compromised with the bondsmen for \$7,000, and the case is closed.

In the Senate the credentials of the son of North Carolina, were presented and filed. The bill to establish a United States Court in Indian Territory was considered.

The bill to amend the act relating to Union Pacific funding bill was discussed. Conferees were appointed on the direct tax bill. In the House a number of minor bills were passed.

The postoffice appropriation bill was taken up.

[From the Second Edition of the Sunday Journal.]

Romantic Legend Recalled.
CHYENNE, W. T., Feb. 9.—The discovery of the dead bodies of eight Mexican men, found at the mouth of the abandoned San Salvador mine in the Territory of Wyoming, has brought to light a romantic story, rivaling all the tales about seekers for Captain Kidd's buried treasures.

Eight years ago, the bodies of eight of his countrymen, were here last fall for two days. They confided to a Mexican prospector that they were searching for abandoned gold mine, and they were going to be rich in the end, and they were going to develop. Martinez carried a chart, traced on parchment, which they said was 300 years old, and was the property of his grandfather, who had been lost for years, but recently turned up, and at once the party was organized.

The party was made up of three men, for generations was that Martinez, the elder, was at the head of a band of Spanish gold-hunters who were working a rich mine in the Territory of Wyoming. The miners quarreled, and finally fought, and their division resulted in the abandonment of the mine, though it was rich in gold. With his blood he traced the chart which was to be a rich legacy to his children. A faithful friend of Martinez, the prospector, who had been lost for years, but recently turned up, was told of two mines up north that miners had discovered, and he was going to develop them. He was told of two mines up north that miners had discovered, and he was going to develop them.

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ability in this matter is theirs, and they have decided to pass the bill." Mr. Tilden answered: "It is true that the responsibility is theirs, and it is true that they ought to be held to it. It is surprising that they should wish to take this responsibility without consulting me, but the responsibility is theirs, and they ought to be held to it."

Never was a party, or a man in the history of this country placed in a more trying position than that of the Democratic party at this time. From the time they elected Mr. Tilden, they have been placed in a more trying position than that of the Democratic party at this time.

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